

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BARCIA, James A. (Democrat)  
Representative, 5th District, Michigan  
Elected 1992 to the 103d Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Bay City Michigan - 25 February 1952  
Home: Bay City  
Marital status: Married (Vicki) - 2 stepchildren  
Religion: Roman Catholic  
Education: Saginaw Valley State College, B.A., 1974  
Military: None  
Profession: Legislator

Political: Michigan State Senator, 1983-93; State Representative, 1977-83 (majority whip, 1979-83); staff assistant to US Senator Philip Hart, 1971. Defeated Keith Muxlow (R) in the Nov92 general election with 60 percent of the vote. Reelected 1998 with 71% of the vote and in 2000 with 75% of the vote.

Rep Barcia is a moderate who aims his votes toward the center of the political spectrum; he is one of the more conservative Northern Democrats in the House. Member of the moderate New Democrat Coalition. As co-chairman of the Pro-Life Caucus, opposed allowing abortion to be covered by federal employee health plans. Believes in maintaining a formidable military to protect our Nation's security. But says we also need to modify some of our policies and adapt to the new conditions that face us in the post-cold war era. Believed it is time for other nations to take on more responsibility in promoting peace throughout the world. Noted that the US contributes the most to the UN and NATO. Supports UN reform. Voted to cut "unnecessary, high-priced" programs like the B-2 and the "obsolete" Star Wars program. Expressed his support for our superb military personnel and said he championed increases in their annual pay and housing allowances. Votes consistently to cut US commitments abroad. Believed foreign assistance programs should be motivated by the need to protect vital American interests.

In the 105th Congress, became a swing vote on the B-2 reversing his 1995 opposition to more funding for the B-2s. In two votes in June 1997 he opposed efforts to terminate the program and to cut additional procurement funds. Supported legislation to extend health benefits to veterans afflicted with Persian Gulf syndrome, to permit certain military retirees to enroll in Medicare, and a bill calling for gender segregated basic training.

In the 106th Congress, expressed support for H.R. 2392, the Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization. Opposed granting permanent normal trade status to China. Favored providing Medicare benefits to military retirees and their dependents. Voted to halt funding for US mission in Kosovo unless European nations pay more. Voted to authorize air strikes against Yugoslavia. Opposed setting conditions for deployment of national missile defense.

In the 107th Congress, voted against granting the President fast-track trade negotiating authority. Supported authorizing the President to use all necessary and appropriate force against terrorists and nations that aid them. Decided to run for the State Senate in 2002 to avoid running in a primary against Rep Dale Kildee in the redesigned 5th District.

AF Bases: Port Austin AFS (Wurtsmith AFB, which closed in Jun93, was in his district)

## COMMITTEES

SCIENCE- Subc on Environment, Technology and Standards - ranking member  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE